

# IN AMATL IN XICANOME?

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## RAMIREZ APPOINTED AS CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR

On Thursday, February 12, 1:30 PM, at the Minneapolis City Council met at the city Court House to consider the nomination of David Ramirez for Director of the Minneapolis Civil Rights Department.

David Ramirez was Mayor Stenvigs' second nomination, the first having been rejected over what several observers called insensitivity to the disenfranchised, namely the gays and women.

Ramirez, born a Texano, was brought to Minnesota at the age of 8 by his parents who were migrant workers. "I'm proud of having been a migrant worker" says Ramirez as he gave an early account of his personal experiences with discrimination. His first encounter with discrimination was with housing when his father tried to purchase a house and was rejected simply for being a farm worker, says Ramirez. A later encounter was while he was dating his wife, who happens to be Caucasian, when the couple would be stopped by police for no given reason except that she was white and he was not.

Ramirez worked his way through school at the University of Minnesota with various jobs which include that of sparring partner for five dollars an hour, insurance salesman and photographer. After receiving his bachelors degree in Business Administration, his first job with the University was with the Chicano Studies Department as Community Program Assistant and then as Coordinator for the Martin Luther King Program on the U of M Campus.

Ramirez has pledged not only to work for the benefit of any and all minorities, but the so-called disenfranchised as well which includes our senior citizens who were not mentioned at the previous confirmation meeting. Testimonies were completely favorable to Ramirez and proved to be so when the Council voted unanimously to endorse his confirmation as Director of the Civil Rights Dept.

Members of the Chicano Student Coalition and the Amatl newsletter wish him well and would like to point out that David Ramirez is the first Chicano in Minneapolis history to hold a top decision making position.

## UFW PLEA FOR HELP

-Press  
Release-

Farmworkers of California face another set back in their struggle for union representation. The function of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board is to set up, regulate, and certify farm labor elections. Monies appropriated to the Board have been depleted by an unexpectedly large number of ranch elections, and further funding depends on a 2/3's vote of the California Senate and Assembly. That funding is being blocked by growers until the 1975 legislation is amended so that the farmworkers would lose significant voting rights and protections.

UFW urges that the boycott of non-UFW grapes, head lettuce and Gallo wines be observed now. The latest Harris poll revealed that 17 million people already support the boycott. Residents are asked to display cards in a front window, which declares support for the boycott, and to ask friends to do the same. Cards can be obtained by calling or writing the United Farm Worker Office, 1308 East Franklin Avenue #3, Minneapolis, MN 55404, phone 874-0123.

## CHICANOS ENCOURAGED TO VOTE

Minnesota Chicano Federation issued a press release on 2/9/76 announcing the first massive Chicano voter registration drive in the history of the state of Minnesota with a heavy concentration in the metropolitan area. Persons interested in participating should contact Manuel Guerrero at Chicano Studies, 489 Ford Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, 373-9707, or José Gamez, Vice-President of the St. Paul Urban Coalition, 264 Metro Square Building, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, 227-7287.

## NOTE OF INTEREST

In the last part of the week of January 19th, 1976, the St. Paul Pioneer Press had a small article about the birthday of the oldest woman in the country. In Amatl would like to note that this woman is a Chicana, Geneveva Gutierrez. Geneveva is 117 years old and is from Marcos, Texas. She is still an active woman, who swims daily and makes her own tortillas de maiz from the corn she herself grinds.



## MINIMUM WAGE FOR FARM WORKERS

Chicanos in California are having their problems as farm workers. Yet these Chicanos are not alone in their struggle. Farm workers of Minnesota are also having their problems. But there are Chicanos and other people here who are trying to help the farm workers of Minnesota. A bill under House file number 608, Minimum Wage for Farm Workers in the State of MN has been passed by a subcommittee in the House of Representatives and is now back in the House for voting upon. All representatives were urged to vote in favor of the bill by a representative of the Chicano Student Coalition and the Chicano Studies Department.

## MEET THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

March 1st and 8th, 1976, Coffman Union Program Council at the University of Minnesota is sponsoring the "Meet The Community Programs". Participants in the program are Chicano Studies Department, American Indian Studies Department and Afro-American Studies Department.

On March 1st will be the Artist Presentation and Workshop from 12 until 2 PM in which the participating departments will be represented.

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On March 8th, representatives from the participating departments will be giving a presentation from 12 until 2 PM. Chairman of Chicano Studies Dept., Manuel P. Guerrero and Russell Thornton, a representative from the Afro-American Studies Dept., are among the speakers. A question and answer period will follow each speakers' presentation. Both events will be held at Coffman Memorial Union, Room 320.

## ESSAY CONTEST

Chicano Studies Department at the University of Minnesota is sponsoring a Bi-Centennial essay contest for Chicano high school students in the State of Minnesota. Students essays will be used during Chicano Week at the University. Essays can deal with any aspect of Chicano heritage, past present, or future. Winner of the contest will receive a \$25.00 prize. Essay should be from 500-750 words long and may be submitted to Chicano Studies Department, University of MN, 489 Ford Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455.

## MEXICAN AMERICAN LECTURE SERIES

The Mexican American Lecture Series sponsored by the Minnesota Forum at the University of Minnesota in conjunction with the Chicano Studies Department will be presenting its' first lecture of the series on Thursday, March 11, 1976 at 7 PM. Speaker will be Professor Pedro Castillo, Assistant Professor of History and American Studies at Yale University. Topic is "Chicanos in the City". The series will take place at Coffman Union, third floor, rooms 307, 308 and 309 across from the Mississippi Room. For more information, contact Armando Estrella or Alfredo Gonzalez at the Chicano Studies Department, 489 Ford Hall.

## SPORTS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Latin Liberation Front Basketball team of the University of Minnesota Intramural League, C division will be entering the finals sometime in March, 1976. The last game played by LLF was with the Hong Kong team in which both teams were playing for the division championship. LLF Basketball team won the division championship with a score of 56-25 which currently gives the team a record of five wins and two losses.

Members of the team include, Larry Lucio, Gilbert Delao, Rick Armijo, James Duarte, Larry Munoz, Adam Charvarria and Fabian Campa among others. The team encourages Chicano students to attend the game for additional moral support. Games are played at Cooke Hall on Wednesdays.



## EDITORIAL PAGE

## VICTORY FOR CHICANOS -

Recently in a conversation between the Secretary of the Minneapolis Urban Coalition and a Chicano here on the U of M campus, it was revealed that in the proposed Right to Read Academy proposal, which is now being submitted to Washington for funding and materials, no provisions were being made for adults with Chicano or Latino background.

After this fact had been revealed it was explained to the Urban Coalition that any program which is to be or is federally funded is obligated to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Affirmative Action Act of 1967 which says, that if any minorities are hired in a federally funded program, then each minority group must be equally represented.

Since this information has been made known to the Urban Coalition, they now have made provisions for the Chicano or Latino in their proposal, which will include bilingual material for Latinos and stated so formally in a letter.

Because the same information about the Civil Rights Act and the Affirmative Action Act was also made known to the Minnesota State Arts Council, the Council is now looking for credential Latino artists as their 'Artists in Residence' with ethnic orientation. Currently the Council has six Black artists in residence, along with 2 Latinos, one of which is Chicano and the other a Costa Rican, one Native American and no Asian Americans what-so-ever, and, is a federally funded program. The credential artists have to be of the literary, performing or visual arts.

The recognition by the MN State Arts Council for the need of more Latino artists is most certainly a Victory for the Chicano in representation. Although the Blacks may be the largest minority group in the metropolitan area, they are not the largest minority group in the State of Minnesota. It is the Chicanos and Latinos who are the largest minority group in the state.

The recognition of Chicanos in the proposed Right to Read Academy proposal is most certainly a Victory for Chicanos Venceran, Chicano student Coalition and the Chicano Studies Department as the Council will now be sure to include someone from the Chicano community to be a participant for input and involvement if any additional proposals are evolved through this organization.

These 2 Victories for the Chicano may seem small yet they are indeed very significant. They are a Victory toward the betterment of the lives of the Chicano and a Victory toward the recognition of the Chicano culture.

## IN REMEMBERING THE STRUGGLE OF THE UNITED FARM WORKERS

- A. Estrella

On Thursday, 2/19/76 at 7:30 PM, the film "Fighting For Our Lives" was shown at the West Bank Auditorium of the University of Minnesota campus.

The film depicted the real conditions and events that followed the strike of the farm workers of California in 1973. The events followed were from the quiet beginnings of the boycott when the teamsters joined the growers, to the subtle police harassment, to the intimidations by the teamster "gorrillas" as called by the workers, to finally the violent attacks by the Kern County Highway Patrol which ended in the viscous and merciless killings of an Arab brother and a 60 year old Chicano. As the patrolmen were being filmed, they continued to openly and steadily attack the strikers with mace and billy clubs, striking women as well as men who offered no resistance.

I could not help but feel great hatred toward those hiding behind uniforms, doing the racists' biddings in the traditional manner which has been dealt us since the acquisition of the Southwest. I could not help feeling guilty for not having done my part to help our laborous agrarian brothers.

When the movie was over, the auditorium had an attendance of approximately 150 people. Among those in attendance were, a Chicano family of four, 3 Chicano U of M staff, 1 Chicano from the community, one Latina and only about six Chicano students.

Could it be that our Chicanos on campus cannot spare \$1.50 for a ticket to this film or the time to see it, or both? Could it be that we Chicanos are becoming the future apathetic academic derelicts who to soon become the objective minded fat cats?

To those who have never experienced the pains of working in hot dusty fields, hand blisters, aching backs, no medical facilities, no labor benefits, and have never been subjected to such racists sneers as "You should be glad you greaser-spic" from the bossess while being herded into the back of the trailers to return to the barrio should ask your parents if they remember that only those who thought they were better than their own would refer to themselves as Spanish or "puro Mexicano" or American rather than Chicano which was said in pride and confidence.

Too many of our own have forgotten what our ancestors have suffered for us, so that we may have at least a heritage to defend ourselves with. Too many have forgotten that today as in the '40's "los Chicanos" have refused to be subjugated and humiliated by "babosas" of the establishment as well as pendejos of la Raza.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Third World Film Series will present "Yo Soy Chicano", March 3, 1976 at 7:30 PM, free at the Whole Coffeehouse. The film is 60 minutes long and in color.

The film presents the Chicano experience from its roots in pre-Columbian history to current Mexican-American struggles. Featured are interviews with several contemporary Chicano leaders and a historical narrative using actors to recreate key events and individualism in Mexican history. Discussion will follow.

Chicanos Venceran Mexican Folkloric Dance Group is looking for dancers, and encourages you to join. Practice sessions are: Saturdays, 3:00-6:00 PM at 337 Coffman Memorial Union and Wednesdays, 6:00 - 9:00 PM at 70 Ford Hall. For further information, contact Ted Martinez at 341-4270.

## NEW COURSES

A course in classical Aztec (Nahuatl) will be offered Spring Quarter 1976 at the University of Minnesota. Instructor is Eustolio Perez. Course number is 3413. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:15 PM until 2:30 PM. Sign up at Chicano Studies Department, 489 Ford Hall.

Attention, Chicano graduate students, Chicano Studies Department at the University of Minnesota now has a course for you - 5970 Directed Studies. This course has approved graduate level credit. Any course offered in Chicano Studies curriculum may be taken under this subject heading upon approval of the department chairman.

Note: This course is not to be confused with 3970 which is undergraduate level.

University of Minnesota now has a course offering field internship with the Minneapolis Public Schools through the Ethnic Cultural Center titled Directed Studies - 3970 to be offered for Spring Quarter 1976. The field internship consists of development and implementation of multi-ethnic curriculum - a Chicano perspective.

Time and date can be arranged with the Chicano Studies Department chairman - Manuel P. Guerrero.

The editor urges, Chicano students, Chicanos of the Twin Cities communities and interested persons to submit writings, commentaries and poetry to the newsletter.

The purpose of the newsletter is to give the Chicano a chance to express themselves in a form of artistic or commentary writing and to give them the recognition they deserve.

The editor hopes you will show your support in its growth by utilizing the paper for the purpose it was created.

When material is submitted, it must be submitted by the 15th of every month. Material may be submitted at the Chicano Cultural Center in Dome City on 15th Street, 376-1233, or to Rafael Esparza at the Consolidated H.E.L.P. Center, 317 - 17th Avenue S.E., 373-0120 and also to Chicano Studies Department in Ford Hall, 373-9707.

Editor - Theresa Garcia

Founders - Chicano Student Coalition